

# Getty



## TECHNICIAN TRAINING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MOSAICS

PART 1  
THE CONSERVATION OF IN SITU MOSAICS

### Cleaning



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## Purposes of cleaning operations

To remove substances and materials from the surface of the mosaic that could be responsible for its deterioration.

To enable a better assessment of the mosaic's condition by making its surface more visible.

To prepare the mosaic for mortar-based stabilization treatments.

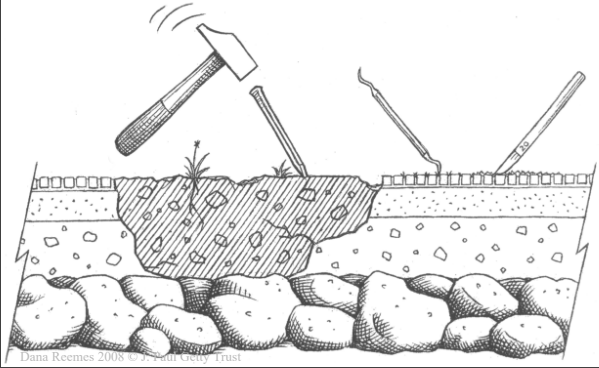
## Types of Cleaning

Cleaning without water

Cleaning with water

Removal of vegetation

# Cleaning without water



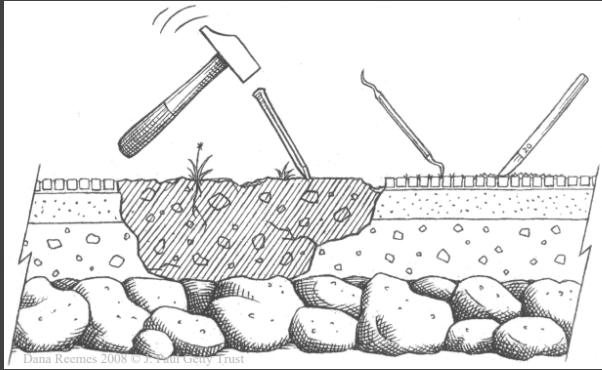
Removal of accumulated sand and soil with a brush



Removal of accumulated soil in the interstices between tesserae with a dental pick



# Cleaning without water



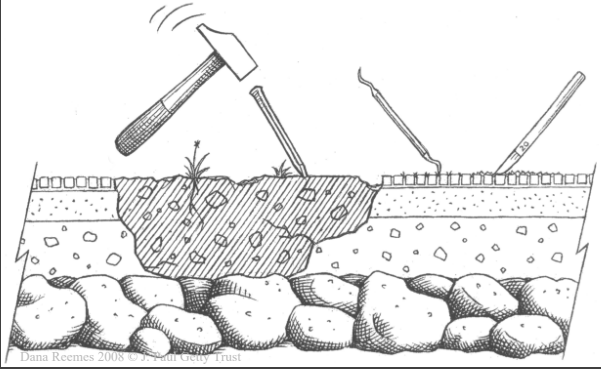
Removal of modern repair mortars with a chisel and small hammer



Removal of adhered substances with a scalpel



# Cleaning without water



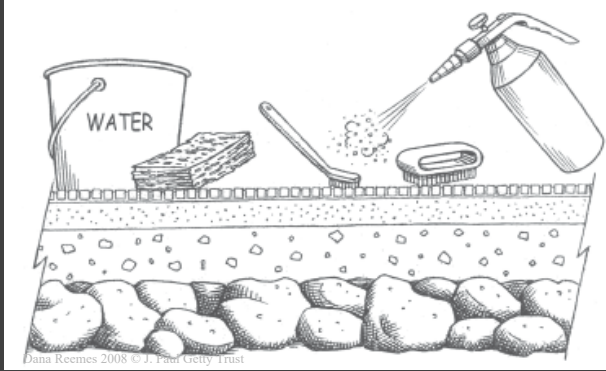
Removal of soil and vegetation with scissors



Removal of soil and vegetation with a brush and trowel



# Cleaning with water



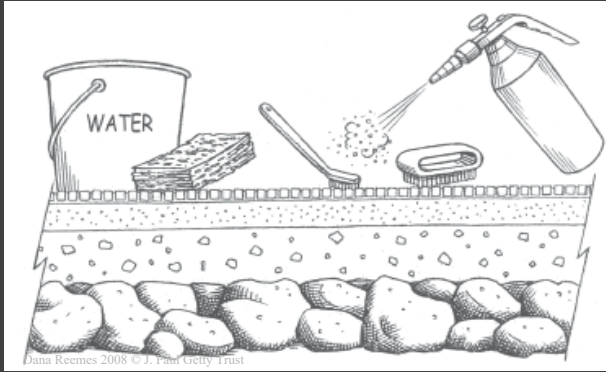
Removal of micro-organisms with a small brush



Area of mosaic after removal of micro-organisms



# Cleaning with water



Cleaning with a small brush, sponge and water sprayer before stabilization



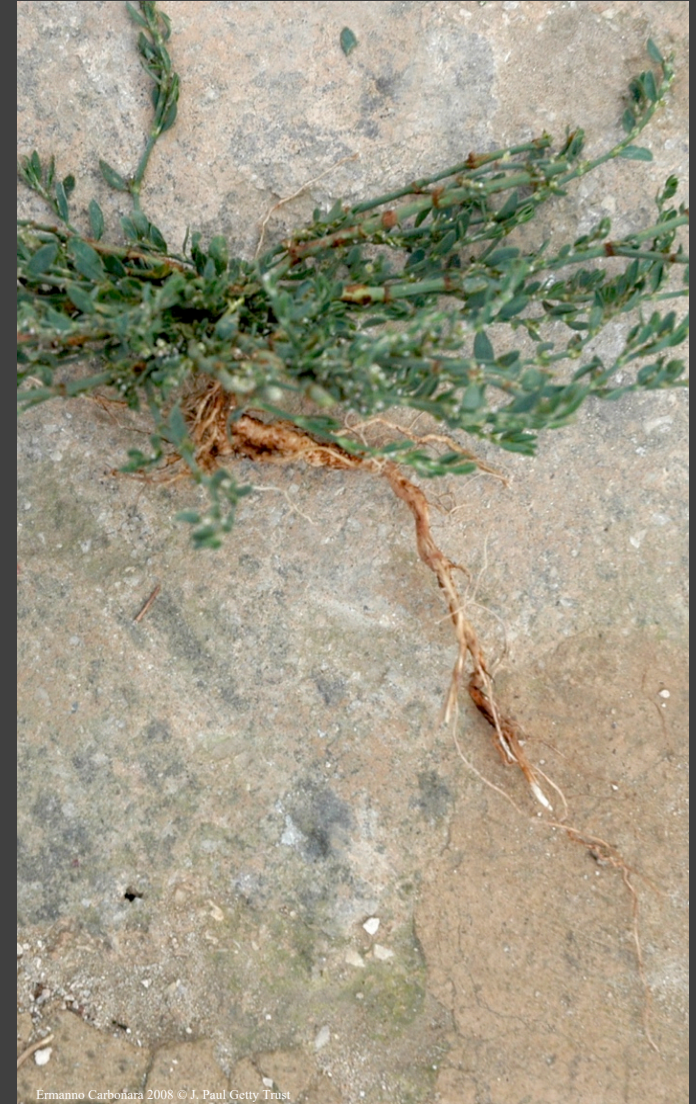
# Removal of vegetation



Temporary removal of tesserae



Exposing roots



Removal of plant with its roots

# Cleaning Tools

Scalpel with removable blades

Scalpel with fixed blade

Dental pick

Chisel and small hammer

Trowel

Pair of scissors

Flat brushes

Small dustpan and brush

Toothbrush

Fingernail brush

Large brush

Sponge

Wooden sticks

Water sprayer

Water bucket

Vacuum cleaner



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MOSAIKON is a partnership of four institutions: the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Foundation, ICCROM, and ICCM. The aims of the project are to strengthen the network of professionals concerned with the conservation, restoration, maintenance, and management of mosaic heritage in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region; provide training to a variety of individuals involved in mosaics conservation and, more generally, with the management of archaeological sites and museums with mosaics; work with national and international bodies to provide a more favorable legislative, regulatory, and economic environment for the conservation of mosaics in the Mediterranean; and promote the dissemination and exchange of information.

